
REPORT OF AGENT FOR UINTA AND OURAY AGENCY.

UINTA AND OURAY AGENCY,
Whiterocks, Utah, August 28, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to herewith submit my second annual report of the affairs of this agency.

Location.—The Uinta Agency is located 110 miles from Price, Utah, the nearest railroad station, and it is 110 miles of about the worst road I ever saw. The Ouray subagency is 35 miles southeast of the Uinta Agency. That subagency is in charge of a civil-service clerk, and my bondsmen are responsible for all of his official acts, although I had never seen him until you sent him here to take charge of this subagency, and this I think is one of the injustices of the civil-service law.

Census.—The census taken June 30, 1900, shows:

Uinta Ute (Uinta Agency):		
Males over 18 years	160	
Females over 18 years	134	
Males 6 to 18 years	57	
Females 6 to 18 years	47	
Males under 6 years	39	
Females under 6 years	33	
		470
White River Ute (Uinta Agency):		
Males over 18 years	118	
Females over 18 years	93	
Males 6 to 18 years	58	
Females 6 to 18 years	58	
Males under 6 years	17	
Females under 6 years	20	
		364
Uncompahgre Ute (Ouray Agency):		
Males over 18 years	279	
Females over 18 years	291	
Males 6 to 18 years	99	
Females 6 to 18 years	86	
Males under 6 years	45	
Females under 6 years	46	
		846
White River Ute (Ouray Agency):		
Males over 18 years	8	
Females over 18 years	6	
Males 6 to 18 years	2	
Females 6 to 18 years	2	
Males under 6 years	0	
Females under 6 years	1	
		19
Total		1,699

I wish to call your attention to the fact that considering the number of children of school age on the reservation and the number that are in school, the latter seems entirely too small, but there must be considerable allowance made because these Indians marry very young. Boys from 14 to 16 years, and girls from 13 to 14 years marry, and many who are carried on the rolls as school children have been married for several years.

I have the three bands of Ute Indians under my charge, viz, Uinta, White River, and Uncompahgre. The two former bands own the Uinta Reservation. These Indians can all be classed as good Indians, with the exception of about thirty or forty of the White River Ute.

Farming.—The Indians have made a decided improvement in their farming since I took charge of this agency. A great many more Indians are farming than there were. I have not been able to lay out any more farms because I have no wire to fence the land with, but some Indians have more than they can farm, and I got them to let their friends farm some of it. A mistake was made when these farms were laid out by giving so much land to an Indian. At least 160 acres was put in each farm, when 40 acres is all one Indian can take care of. Several of these Indians have 160 acres of alfalfa, and will cut 600 tons of hay this year. It gives me considerable trouble to see that they put this hay up, and to make them pay the other Indians for their work, while the Indians who are farming from 20 to 40 acres make nearly as much money, and their crops are put up at the proper time and without bothering the agent.

These Indians will sell next month to the War Department at Fort Duchesne 900 tons of hay, for which they will receive \$6,420, and they will still have several thousand tons left. They will raise more oats this year than last and about the same amount of wheat, but they never raise the latter for sale. I have asked at one time that you use \$100,000 of the money that these Indians have on interest for making and improving the ditches for their farms.

Buildings.—The buildings at Uinta Agency and the Uinta and Ouray schools are in fairly good condition and repair. Some of the buildings at the Uinta Agency need painting badly. All of the buildings at the Ouray Subagency except three

are entirely worthless. New ones should be built or the agency moved to the Ouray school, which is 15 miles up the river and that much nearer the Uinta Agency, and I would certainly recommend the latter.

All of the buildings are constantly in danger of fire, and to protect ourselves against fire we should have waterworks at the Uinta Agency and the Ouray school. The fall of the water in the river is so great that the expense would not be very great.

Liquor traffic.—I have not seen a drunken Indian for a year, and have only heard of two being drunk. I believe I have succeeded in breaking up the liquor traffic among these Indians.

Schools.—There are two schools under my charge, the Uinta and the Ouray schools. These Indians as a rule are very much opposed to education, and I have a continual scrap with them from the time the schools open till they close in June in getting the children in school and keeping them there after they are in. My policemen do excellent work in everything except in bringing children to school. The attendance was about double last year what it was the year before, and I do not expect to be able this year to increase last year's attendance. I hope, however, to increase the attendance of the Uinta school. The drawback to this school is the White River Indians. If you will give me authority to stop their rations, and call on the soldiers to help me, I will put their children in school, but I do not believe I can do it with the Indian police, and without some of them getting killed, as the leaders of this band are a mean set of Indians.

Irrigation.—We have simply kept our irrigation ditches in good repair this year, and we have not made any new ones. Our ditches are in fairly good repair, and we need wire to fence in land more than we need ditches.

Recommendations.—I will renew my recommendation of last year, and that the Utes be authorized to employ an attorney to collect what the Government owes them for the land in Colorado that is now in the forest reserve. It is very evident that the Government does not intend to sell this land, and it is but fair that the Indians should have the money for it.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the officials of the Indian Office for the kind treatment I have received from them since I have been agent.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

H. P. MYTON,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF OURAY SCHOOL.

LELAND, UTAH, July 26, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my second annual report of the Ouray boarding school. The attendance during the past year has been fairly satisfactory, the enrollment during the year being 60 with an average attendance of 44, as against an enrollment of 37 and an average attendance of 25 during the previous year.

The attendance by quarters was as follows: First quarter, 24; second quarter, 33; third quarter, 51; fourth quarter, 54.

The pupils have made good progress in their studies, notwithstanding the fact that new pupils were added almost every week during three or four months of the year. I hope to be able to fill the school to its full capacity of 80 during the ensuing year.

Two pupils were discharged on account of poor health, both of whom subsequently died. One boy was drowned by breaking through the ice into the Uinta River. With these exceptions the health of the pupils has been very good.

During the year we have been favored with visits from Supervisor A. O. Wright, Inspector C. F. Nesler, and Special Agent Reynolds. Their visits were pleasant and their advice helpful and encouraging.

Last year we raised about half enough potatoes for the pupils, besides a good supply of other vegetables, and plenty of hay to feed our herd of 25 cattle during the winter. The present season has been less favorable. I think, however, that we will have enough hay to feed our stock through the winter, but our garden will be almost a failure.

The buildings need many small repairs. The walls of the brick buildings have been badly damaged by the leakage from the eave troughs. Part of this damage has been repaired, but the remainder should be repaired very soon to prevent further damage. The roof of the boys' dormitory should be repaired by removing the eave troughs and leveling up and tinning the space which they now occupy. In both dormitories the floors and plastering need repairing and all the buildings need painting and kalsomining.

The greatest need of the school is a system of waterworks. At present the supply is obtained by hauling from the Uinta River, a distance of 300 yards or more. This requires the work of a team and two or three large boys half the time, and then the supply is inadequate and unsatisfactory. As we have but one team, it is easy to see how such a system hinders all other work. It is the most distasteful drudgery and does not teach the boys anything. I know from personal experience that when the mercury ranges from 10° to 20° below zero, and when the pails, barrels, and wagon become covered with ice from an inch to 4 inches in thickness, hauling water for all purposes in a school of 50 or 60 pupils, is a real hardship. I sincerely hope that this difficulty will be overcome in the near future.

In the industrial departments the girls have made good progress in their work in the kitchen, dining-room, and sewing-room. These girls are the best cooks of any Indian girls I have ever seen.

The industrial training of the boys has not been so satisfactory. From October 1 till January 24 no industrial teacher was allowed for the school, and since that time the position has been filled by four different men. With so many changes systematic training is impossible. It takes any employee several months to so learn the dispositions and capabilities of Indian children, that he may be able to instruct them in either literary or industrial pursuits. As all the positions are now filled by regular employees, I think more satisfactory results will follow. Since the prejudice against the school has been partially broken down, and the Indians appear to take a more rational view of education and of the white man's way of living, I hope to be able to make a more favorable report one year hence.

Very respectfully,

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

JNO. M. COMMONS, *Superintendent.*
